



Introduced Version

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. ____

Introduced by: Brown T, Frizzell

A HOUSE RESOLUTION urging the Legislative Council to create an interim study committee to consider opportunities to reduce the risk of death and disease among smokers who will not quit smoking by considering tobacco harm reduction policies that encourage smokers to switch from cigarettes to less risky tobacco products such as smokeless tobacco.

Whereas, For decades, Indiana has pursued policies intended to encourage residents who smoke to quit and to discourage others who do not smoke from starting;

Whereas, While cigarette smoking rates declined substantially from 1965 to 2004, the rate of decline has slowed in recent years; however, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control, 21.2% of adult residents of Indiana are still smoking cigarettes;

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Whereas, Numerous public health organizations, such as the Institute of Medicine, the American Council on Science and Health, the Royal College of Physicians, and the World Health Organization, have all recognized that there is a continuum of risk among tobacco product types, and that the risks associated with cigarette use are substantially higher than those associated with the use of smokeless tobacco;

Whereas, While abstaining from all tobacco is clearly the best and most effective way for smokers to reduce their risk of disease and premature death (no tobacco product has shown to be safe), it is appropriate to consider whether those who will not abstain can substantially reduce their risk of disease and premature death by switching from cigarettes to smokeless tobacco products that present less risk; and

Whereas, The Legislative Council is requested to authorize an interim study committee to answer particular questions for the purpose of assisting the General Assembly in evaluating the inclusion of tobacco harm reduction as a strategy for reducing smoking-attributable death and disease and the associated health care costs in Indiana: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives urges the
- 2 Legislative Council to establish an interim study committee for the
- 3 purpose of assisting the legislature in considering the inclusion of
- 4 tobacco harm reduction strategies to reduce smoking-attributable death
- 5 and disease.

